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JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

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DATE: May 22, 1950

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On May 5, 1950, BOS ND 560 made available a flyer announcing a "Deadline for Freedom Rally" to be held May 7, 1950, at the Boston Conservatory Auditorium, 31 Hemenway Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The flyer announced that the meeting was to be sponsored by the "Committee of 25", Suite 1503, 192 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York. Also appearing on the flyer was the fact that tickets could be obtained at Suite #1, 726 Washington Street, Brookline, Massachusetts. This is the address of one Mrs. THEODORE RITAN GOLDSTEIN, known member of the Professional Section of the Communist Party of Boston and subject of a Security Index Card in this office.

Featured speakers, according to the flyer, were Dr. EDWARD K. BARSKY, Chairman, JAFRC; Mr. JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, One of the Hollywood Ten; Miss FLORENCE LUSCOMB; and Reverend KENNETH de P. HUGHES, Chairman of the meeting, Rector of St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Special Agent ROBERT E. SUNKEL attended the above meeting. All of the scheduled speakers were present.

As announced, there, the meeting was called to protest the fact that the United States Supreme Court had refused to hear the cases of 25 persons convicted of contempt of Congress because they had refused to answer questions put to them at a hearing of the House Un-American Activities Committee. These twenty-five included the "Hollywood Ten".

The keynote of the meeting was set by Reverend HUGHES, Chairman, who expressed fear that the Bill of Rights was being subverted when, as it appeared to him, Congress was being given tacit permission by the Supreme Court to inquire into a man's politics. This, he said, was the case of the "25" whose cause they were pleading at the meeting.

Reverend HUGHES then introduced Dr. EDWARD K. BARSKY, whose comments paralleled those made by HUGHES and added the thought that the United States was heading for Fascism and imperialism by such actions. He made the statement that the present administration was

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*Let's see
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